

CUTTING THROUGH THE MOUNTAINS

The Parkway crosses over the **James River** here and dips to its lowest elevation, only 649 feet above sea level. Because of this, the vegetation, climate, and animal life are very different. The James creates a great “water gap” where it cuts through the mountains. You can see this gap while standing on the walkway across the river. This is perhaps the most historic waterway in Virginia. Can you imagine boats filled with people and supplies passing this way? Visitor center exhibits and a restored canal lock will help you see how these boats maneuvered through the mountains. You may hear a ranger telling the story of the struggle to build a canal connecting Richmond, VA with the Shenandoah Valley.



James River
Canal Lock



A **cinquain** (sing'kan) is a five-line poem with one word on the first line, two words on the second line, three words on the third line, four words on the fourth line, and one word on the fifth line. Write your poem in the space below using the following directions. Your poem can be about the James River or any other place on the Parkway. You can also do this activity about your favorite places at home.

Line 1: The name of place (*example: woods*)

Line 2: Two words that describe this place
(*example: cool, quiet*)

Line 3: Three words about what happens here
(*example: sunlight filters through*)

Line 4: Four words about what you like to do here
(*example: walking slowly all alone*)

Line 5: Write the same thing on the first line.
(*example: woods*)

KEEPING TRACK

I visited James River on _____

I explored _____

I enjoyed _____

I discovered _____

James River
Pedestrian Walkway



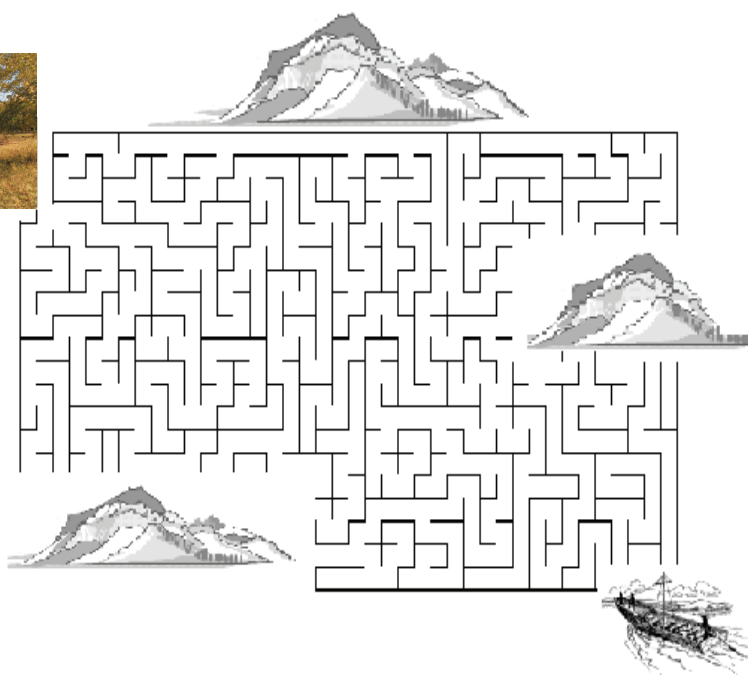
Finding History at James River

In this word search, look for these terms related to the James River area...

BATEAUX, TOW PATH, JAMES RIVER, TOBACCO, CANAL, LOCK, KANAWHA, BRIDGE, PACKET BOAT, PASSENGERS

E	J	M	H	T	A	P	W	O	T
K	A	N	A	W	H	A	H	Y	A
O	M	Y	R	A	R	C	D	R	O
C	E	B	X	U	A	E	T	A	B
C	S	J	A	N	O	R	T	E	T
A	R	R	A	O	T	S	D	E	E
B	I	L	D	E	O	L	O	C	K
O	V	J	A	N	T	L	M	N	C
T	E	G	D	I	R	B	O	R	A
S	R	E	G	N	E	S	S	A	P

In the mountains, small creeks become streams and larger streams become rivers! Help the bateaux find its way along the James River through the mountains toward the Ohio River...



Getting From Here to There!

ORDER	What kind of Transportation do you see?	When was it developed?

People have always dreamed of travels, and while dreaming, they have come up with lots of new ways to get from one place to another. As you walk the footbridge across the James River, what kinds of transportation for humans or cargo do you see? Talk to a ranger or read the exhibits to put these in order of the years when they were used.

